



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: August 10, 2004

Contact: Tiffani S. Clements (202) 401-0035

Release Number: 04-61

Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

SBA & MBDA Honor Minority-Owned Small Businesses During 22nd Anniversary Celebration of Minority Enterprise Development Week

Kwame Jackson, Runner-up on NBC's "Apprentice," to Accept Entrepreneurship Award

WASHINGTON –Ten minority-owned businesses from around the country will receive the U.S. Small Business Administration's regional *Minority Small Business Person of the Year* award and Kwame Jackson, first runner up in the "Apprentice" reality show, will receive an entrepreneurship award during the National Minority Enterprise Development Week, Sept. 7-10.

The regional award winners have businesses that offer services ranging from environmental engineering and telecommunication infrastructure to maintenance of military family housing units.

One of the 10 regional award winners will be named the National *Minority Small Business of the Year*. The awards for the Minority Small Business Person of the Year will be presented during the 22nd Anniversary celebration of the National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week conference on Sept. 7-10 in Washington, D.C., at the Omni Shoreham hotel. MED Week is a joint event hosted by the SBA and the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"MED Week is a great venue to address major issues affecting the growth and development of minority businesses and expose them to new opportunities for growth and prosperity," SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. "In traditional MED Week fashion, we are joining with MBDA in honoring minority-owned and women-owned businesses and professionals, such as Kwame Jackson, who have demonstrated leadership, tenacity and shrewdness in their entrepreneurial pursuits. In accordance with the President's minority entrepreneurship initiative, we will continue to support the growth of minority businesses to become an even greater force in the global marketplace."

MED Week, held annually since 1983, recognizes minority businesses' contributions to the nation's economy. In a proclamation this year, President Bush urged all Americans to join together in honoring minority entrepreneurs across the country in appropriate observances.

Besides the national winner, other awards to be announced during the conference include the *SBA Administrator's Leadership* award and the *8(a) Graduate Firm of the Year* award.

Kwame Jackson, will be at MED Week to accept an entrepreneur award for his achievements during the competition for the coveted executive position of one of Donald Trump's successful companies. Jackson is a native of Washington, D.C., and holds an MBA from Harvard University. He was heavily involved in several "dot-com" start-ups during his time in business.

-- more --

school and was formerly an Investment Manager for Goldman Sachs. He presently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Legacy Holdings LLC with his business partners, Mr. Erik Moses and Mr. David Smith. Another special award will be given to the plaintiffs in the historic *Brown vs. Board of Education* case at the MED Week closing award ceremony and gala.

This year's conference theme is "*Forward to the Future, Minority Business Enterprise: The National Priority.*" The conference will feature forums on technology, workshops on business solutions, a panel discussion on competitive advantages for minority businesses and two panels moderated by the SBA to discuss proven strategies to maximize federal procurement opportunities.

Senior staff from the Bush Administration will be present each morning for the *Meet Your White House* breakfast sessions. The conference will also provide opportunities to network at the MED Week 2004 Business Expo. There also will be award ceremonies to honor minority entrepreneurs, minority business advocates and leaders in the corporate community.

The 10 Regional Minority Small Business Persons of the Year are:

REGION I

Mr. David Fowlkes
President
Davin Wheel Co.
Providence, RI

REGION VI

Mr. Leroy C. Gomez
President
TMC Design Corporation (TMC)
Las Cruces, NM

REGION II

Mr. Thomas Vazquez
President
Tom Vazquez Janitorial Services, Inc.
Wharton, NJ

REGION VII

Ms. Belinda Annette Davis
President
DGR Associates, Inc.
Belton, MO

REGION III

Ms. Elizabeth Rendon
President
Lingual Information System Tech. Inc.
Columbia, MD

REGION VIII

Mr. Clarence O'Berry
President
Mandaree Enterprise Corporation (MEC)
Mandaree, ND

REGION IV

Mr. Kenneth Pinson
President
Genesis VII, Inc.
Titusville, FL

REGION IX

Mr. Alejandro Reynoso
President
AR Utility Specialist Inc.
Phoenix, AZ

REGION V

Mr. Joseph Yel-Lieng Huang
President
American Systems Technology, Inc.
Troy, MI

REGION X

Ms. Karen Marie Say
President
Saybr Contractors, Inc.
Puyallup, WA

For more information, contact the MED Week 2004 office at 1-877-MEDWEEK or visit the Website at www.medweek.gov.

#